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TRANSLATOR: AASESCHWEITZ
PROOFREADER: PLANT
REDRAW: YABOKU
TYPESETTER: YABDKU

SENPAI, SORE HITOKUCHI KUOASAI!

BY MIZU ASATO

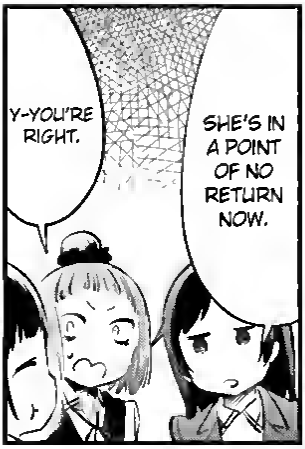
LET'S EAT!
HEY, SHI-ZUKU...
YES?
NAMI-CHAN.
YOU ALWAYS EAT THE SAME STUFF FOR LUNCH.
Shizuku's Friend
Shiota Nami
YOU MEAN RICE BALLS?
YEAH, THOSE ARE THE ONLY FOOD YOU EAT.
BUT I ADDED DIFFERENT FILLINGS!
EVEN SO, THEY DON'T MEAN ANYTHING.

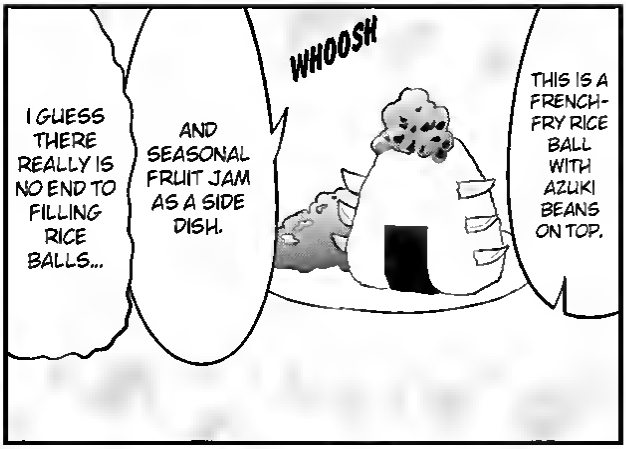
SHE USES LUNCH BOX FOOD...
...AS RICE BALL FILLINGS!
THIS ONE'S SPAGHETTI.
SEE? THIS ONE'S ASPARAGUS, AND THIS ONE'S BROCCOLI.
AND THIS ONE'S ROLLED EGGS.
先輩、ソレひとくちください！
SENPAI, SORE HITOKUCHI KUDASAI!
#028
MIZUASATO
水あさと

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
YEP, IT IS!
IS THAT EVEN GOOD?
TO HER, EVERYTHING TASTES GOOD.
WHISPER
WHISPER
SHIZUKU-CHAN HAS DULL TASTE BUDS.
THAT MAKES SENSE!
WHAT, OTO-CHAN?
HEY, NAMI-CHAN.
Oto-chan
IT'S VERY SOPHISTI-CATED!
MY TASTE BUDS AREN'T DULL, YOU KNOW.
PROOF?
OH, SORRY, SHIZUKU-CHAN.
I CAN HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, GUYS!

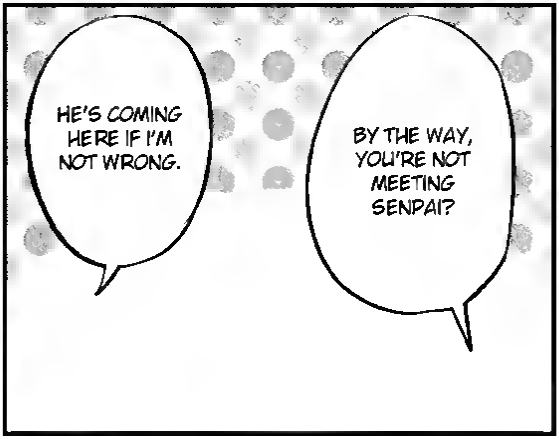
I ALWAYS BRING THESE SEASONINGS WITH ME.
I GET TO PLAY AROUND WITH ALL THESE FLAVORS.
THERE'S A FREAKING LIMIT ON WHAT YOU SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T FILL INSIDE A RICE BALL!
MILK JAM
STRAWBERRY JAM
OLIVE OIL
THIN FISH SAUCE
MIMURAYA Boiled Azuki Beans
CULTURED BUTTER

STILL, EVEN IF YOU PUT IN DIFFERENT FILLINGS,
RICE BALLS ARE STILL RICE BALLS.
THERE ARE COUNTLESS OF WAYS YOU CAN FILL A RICE BALL.
LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE...

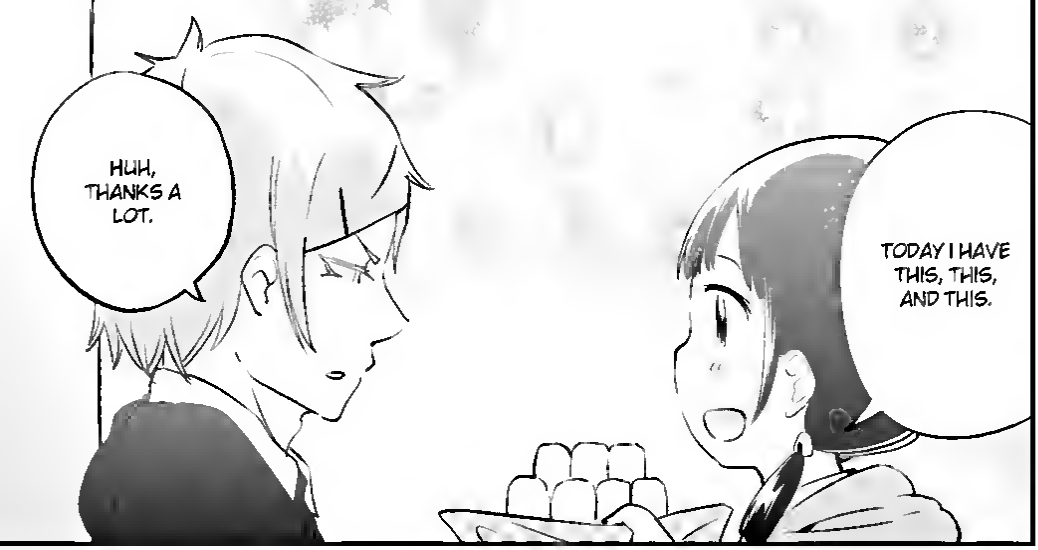

SHE'S IN A POINT OF NO RETURN NOW.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT.

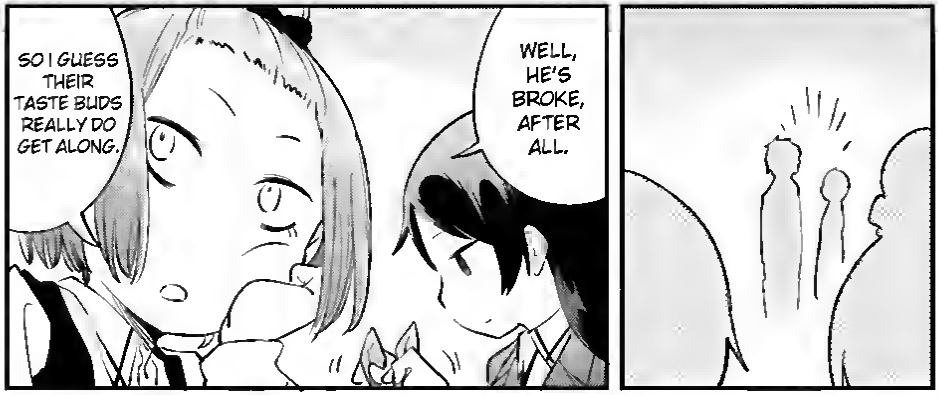

I GUESS THERE REALLY IS NO END TO FILLING RICE BALLS...
AND SEASONAL FRUIT JAM AS A SIDE DISH.
WHOOSH
THIS IS A FRENCH-FRY RICE BALL WITH AZUKI BEANS ON TOP.

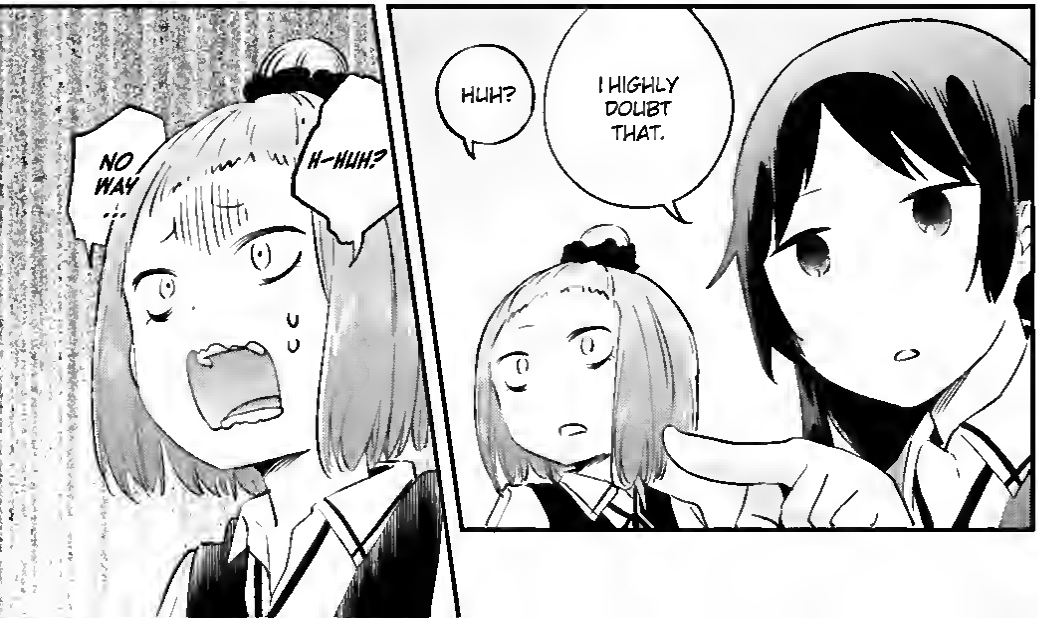
OH!
SEE?
RATTLE


HE'S COMING HERE IF I'M NOT WRONG.
BY THE WAY, YOU'RE NOT MEETING SENPAI?

HEY, MORIYA-KUN
I'LL HAVE THE USUAL.
SURE!
HE'S SO POSTED UP, LIKE ALWAYS!/
TREMBLE
HE'S PROBABLY STARVING SO BADLY HE CAN'T STAND UPRIGHT.

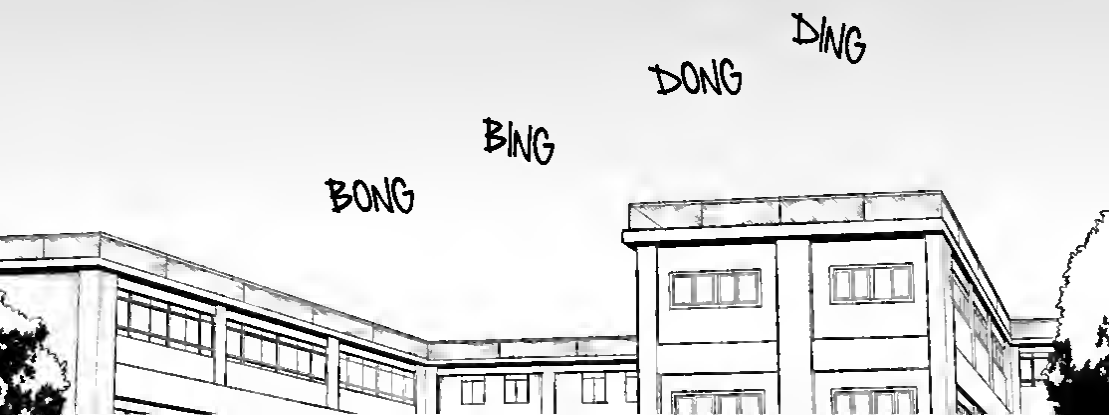

HUH, THANKS A LOT.
TODAY I HAVE THIS, THIS, AND THIS.


SO I GUESS THEIR TASTE BUDS REALLY DO GET ALONG.
WELL, HE'S BROKE, AFTER ALL.


NO WAY...
H-HUH?
HUH?
I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT.

I'LL HAVE THE PLAIN ONE...
...AND THE SALTED ONE...
...IF YOU DON'T MIND.
OF COURSE!
HE'S AVOIDING THE RICE BALLS WITH FILLINGS!

...SHIZUKU'S HOMEMADE RICE BALLS!
HE'S BEING NIT-PICKY TOWARDS...
BUT, HONEST-LY...
I MUST FIND OUT IF HE REALLY GETS WHAT IT TAKES!
AS SHI-ZUKU'S FRIEND,
...SOMEONE LIKE HIM!
SHE DOESN'T DESERVE ...


DING
DONG
BING
BONG

NO PROBLEM.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, SENPAI.
RUSTLE
YES!
SHALL WE SET OFF?
THAT'S TOTALLY A DATE!
BUT THEY'RE STILL NOT GOING OUT YET.
THEY OFTEN GO HOME TOGETHER.

...A SKIRT CHASER WHO TOYS AROUND WITH HER!
SO THIS GUY MUST BE...
THEY'RE GOING SOME-WHERE...
THIS IS...
...PAY THE BILLS OF NUMEROUS RESTAURANTS AND CAFES.
HMPH, I'M THIRSTY.
I'M SURE HE'S HAVING SHIZUKU...
IS IT A HIGH-CLASS RESTAU-RANT?/
WAIT, NO...
IT'S A BIG GARDEN!

IT'S A PARK!
HE'S JUST HAVING A DRINK AT THE WATER FOUNTAIN!
THE WATER HERE IS ALWAYS VERY SMOOTH TO DRINK.
NEXT TIME, LET'S GO TO THE OTHER PARK.
HE'S TASTING WATER FROM DIFFERENT DRINKING FOUNTAIN PARKS!
COME TO THINK ABOUT IT...
SHIZUKU ISN'T THAT WELL-OFF.
THEY ...!
!

...WITH A LOT OF BUSHES!
THEY WENT TO A SECLUDED AREA...
TURN
TURN
TURN

...SINCE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MONEY?
IS HE GONNA COMMIT STATUTORY OFFENSE...

THEY'RE ...
...!

I HAVE TO STOP HIM PRONTO!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THIS GUY IS A TOTAL PER-VERT!

WHAT A BIG HARVEST.
YOU BET, SENPAI.
THEY'RE GATHERING PLANTS...
RUSTLE
...FROM THE BUSHES!

SO FAR HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MALICIOUS INTENT GOING OUTSIDE.
THIS ONE IS GOOD.
THIS ONE SEEMS GOOD.
THIS ONE ISN'T GOOD. IT'S TOO RIPE.
WELL, SENPAI DOES LIVE BY HIM-SELF.
HE FINALLY SETTLED TO HIS HOUSE INSTEAD!
TH-THAT ASSHOLE!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...TO MY HOUSE.
SO, LET'S GO...
ALL RIGHT!
...A MAN AND WOMAN DO IN THIS CRAMPED SPACE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING...
THE ABODE OF LOVE.
SO THIS IS SENPAI'S HOUSE.

THEY'RE COOKING FRESHLY PICKED PLANTS!
IT'S COOKING!

SHE STILL HAS RICE BALLS WITH HER!
LET'S ALSO HAVE THESE RICE BALLS.
...SENPAI ISN'T A BAD PERSON AFTER ALL.
I GUESS ...
BUT...
DON'T YOU WANT MORE JOY OUT OF YOUR LIFE?
YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, SHIZUKU?

NOTHING IS LOST.
WELL, AS LONG AS THEY'RE BOTH HAPPY,
BONG
BING
DONG
DING
HMM, GOOD QUESTION.
SENPAI, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE TODAY?

JOLT
WAIT A MINUTE.
WELL, SINCE SENPAI EATS PLANTS AND SHIZUKU HAS DULL TASTE BUDS, THEY GO ALONG WELL TOGE-THER.
SHE'S GIVING OUT RICE BALLS AGAIN.
HE WAS ABLE TO DISCERN BAD- AND GOOD-TASTING PLANTS.
THIS ONE SEEMS GOOD.
THIS ONE ISN'T GOOD.
WHEN SENPAI WAS HARVESTING PLANTS YESTERDAY,
SHIZUKU-CHAN...
...AWFUL-TASTING FOOD.
SENPAI DOES KNOW...

YOUR RICE BALLS ARE BASICALLY...
I'LL HAVE THE PLAIN ONE...
...AND THE SALTY ONE.
...AS AWFUL AS INEDIBLE PLANTS!